

I. AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Claim 1. (Canceled)

5 Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Canceled)

10 Claim 7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) An article of furniture for pets comprising:

a first pet step comprising a high-density foam core of three-dimensional shape,

15 said high-density foam having a relatively high coefficient of friction, and defining a bottom, a cover removably mounted to said core, said cover being constructed from a fabric having a relatively high coefficient of friction and having a plurality of seams arranged therein so as to define a bag shape with an opening therein, an elastic band mounted to the cover at said opening, said cover being fitted around said core such that

20 the band locates entirely within the perimeter of the bottom of the core leaving a substantial area of the bottom of the core uncovered and exposed, and a plurality of fasteners permanently systematically and strategically mounted to specific locations on the cover,

a second pet step comprising a high-density foam core of three-dimensional shape, said high-density foam having a relatively high coefficient of friction, and defining a bottom, a cover removably mounted to said core, said cover being constructed from a fabric having a relatively high coefficient of friction and having a plurality of seams

- 5 arranged therein so as to define a bag shape with an opening therein, an elastic band mounted to the cover at said opening, said cover being fitted around said core such that the band locates entirely within the perimeter of the bottom of the core leaving a substantial area of the bottom of the core uncovered and exposed, and a plurality of fasteners ~~permanently~~ systematically and strategically mounted to specific locations on
- 10 the cover, and

said second pet step being removably mounted to the first pet step such that the bottom of the second step, including the exposed area of the core, mates with and is adjacent the cover of the first step and the fasteners therebetween are engaged.

- 15 Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The article of furniture of claim 10 wherein the fasteners comprise hook-and-loop fasteners and are ~~permanently~~ systematically and strategically mounted in ~~strategic~~ specific, corresponding locations to the mating surfaces of the adjoining blocks.

- 20 Claim 12. (Original) The article of furniture of claim 11 wherein each hook-and-loop fastener comprises a hook portion and a loop portion and the hook portion is mounted to the cover of the first block and the loop portion is mounted to the cover of the second block such that the portions will mate upon assembly.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The article of furniture of claim 12 further comprising a third pet step, such said third pet step comprising a high-density foam core of three-dimensional shape, said high-density foam having a relatively high coefficient of friction, and defining a bottom, a cover removably mounted to said core, said cover being constructed from a fabric having a relatively high coefficient of friction and having a plurality of seams arranged therein so as to define a bag shape with an opening therein, an elastic band mounted to the cover at said opening, said cover being fitted around said core such that the band locates entirely within the perimeter of the bottom of the core leaving a substantial area of the bottom of the core uncovered and exposed, and a plurality of hook-and-loop fasteners permanently systematically and strategically mounted to specific locations on the cover, and the steps being removably mounted adjacent each other and arranged into a stair such that the hook-and-loop fasteners, having a hook portion and a loop portion, are mated and engaged.

Claim 14. (Previously Amended) A method for constructing a pet stair from a plurality of pet steps, each such step comprising a high-density foam core of three-dimensional shape, said high-density foam having a relatively high coefficient of friction, and each core defining a bottom, a cover removably mounted to said core, said cover being constructed from a fabric having a relatively high coefficient of friction and having a plurality of seams arranged therein so as to define a bag shape with an opening therein, and an elastic band mounted to the cover at said opening, said cover being fitted around said core such that the band locates entirely within the perimeter of the bottom

of the core leaving a substantial area of the bottom of the core uncovered and exposed, comprising the steps of:

assembling the individual pet steps to be used by fitting the covers on the cores so that the seams generally locate on the corners of the cores and the bands locate
5 entirely within the perimeters of the bottoms of the cores leaving a substantial area of the bottom of the core uncovered and exposed, and

arranging the pet steps adjacent each other in a stair configuration as desirable so that the bottom of at least one step, including the exposed portion of the core, is adjacent the cover of at least one step.

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Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the steps further comprise hook-and-loop fasteners ~~permanently~~ systematically and strategically mounted to specific locations on the covers, each fastener having a hook portion and a loop portion, and the method further comprising the step of:

15 fastening the pet steps to each other by securing the hook portion of a hook-and-loop fastener to the corresponding loop portion of a mating hook-and-loop fastener, thereby engaging the fasteners.

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Claim 16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the foam cores are of regular six-sided block shape and the steps are arranged in a three-step stair.

Claim 17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the foam cores are of regular six-sided block shape and the steps are arranged in a four-step stair.